TRADE AND INDUS-TRIES

CHAPTER VII—TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

(i) Trade

503. The number of commercial and industrial enquiries received and dealt with by the Department during the year was 231 (273). These enquiries were received as usual from the various mercantile bodies and Government Departments in and outside the State. Information about the industries, trade and commerce sought for by the Mercantile classes was furnished to them directly or through the Directors of Industries of Provinces or States concerned and wherever necessary, they were also advised to contact the local firms. In addition to the above enquiries received during the year which were of a written nature, a number of enquiries calling at the office were interviewed and supplied with the necessary information. As usual, applications from firms for the supply of stores to the Supply Departments of other State Governments were investigated with reference to their financial standing and business integrity and recommendations were made in deserving cases.

504. Arrangements made by the Department with the M. & S. M. Railway and the Mysore State Railway for the collection and compilation of the rail-borne trade statistics of the State were continued during the year. The scheme for the collection and compilation of road-borne trade statistics at the frontier toll-gates of the State through the Mutsaddies and contractors in charge of these toll-gates was also continued during the year.

Merchandise

505. The total volume of trade in merchandise which was the highest ever recorded amounted to 33·63 (32·04) million railway maunds in 1950-51. The trade by rail accounted for 91 per cent of the total trade, while the balance of 9 per cent was accounted for by the road-borne trade.

Imports.

506. The total quantity of merchandise imported registered a further increase from 24·84 million railway maunds in 1949-50 to 25·98 million railway maunds during the year owing to the increased imports under "Raw Materials" and "Articles wholly or mainly manufactured"

which amounted to 10·51 million railway maunds and 7·99 million railway maunds respectively in 1950-51, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 9·96 and 7·01 million railway maunds. The quantity of imports under "Food, drink and tobacco" remained more or less steady and amounted to 7 43 (7·79) million railway maunds. Rice, gram and pluse, wheat and wheat flour, tobacco and salt were the more important articles of food imported into the State.

507. As in the case of imports, there was a further rise in the total exports of Marchandise from 7·20 million railway maunds in 1949-50 to 7·65 railway maunds during the year. The exports under "food, drink and tobacco" totalled 2·89 (3·35) million railway maunds. A noticeable increase was recorded in the exports under "raw materials" from 1·71 million railway maunds in 1949-50 to 2·36 million railway maunds during the year. The exports under "Articles wholly or mainly manufactured" was 2·39 (2·10) million railway maunds. As usual, coffee, cardamom, betelnuts, copra, groundnut, refined sugar, jaggery, tanned hides and skins and cast iron-pigs and castings figured largely in the export trade in merchandise. Exports.

(ii) Industries

508. The general industrial and commercial conditions in the State were adversely affected owing to several factors such as the sudden outbreak of the Korean war resulting in further inflation of prices, irregular supply of raw-materials, labour unrest, high cost of raw-materials, rising spiral of wages and the inadequacy of transport facilities. In addition to the above factors, a series of natural calamities that befell India in the form of drought, earthquake, floods and locusts were also contributory causes for the unsatisfactory state of industrial and commercial conditions during the year. The major industrial concerns of Government have exerted their best efforts to maintain their production programme. The large scale cotton mills in the State maintained a steady output.

509. Out of the applications received for the grant of industrial loans, loans were sanctioned to 8 applicants for an aggregate amount of Rs. 34,900 for starting or Financial Assistance.